**Utilisation of funds by NER for development of Handicrafts**

3706. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of financial assistance granted to NER for development and promotion of handicrafts during the last three years; and

(b) the details of funds utilized so far?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a)
and (b) The total amount of financial assistance granted/sanctioned to NER for development and promotion of handicrafts during the last three years is Rs. 35.55 crores, out of which Rs. 24.08 crores has been utilized.

**Export from hosiery units of Thirupur**

3707. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total quantity or volume of exports from Hosiery units from Thirupur in Tamil Nadu in 2004-05;

(b) how much increase in exports expected this year; and

(c) whether the Ministry has any plans to organize an exhibition for the foreign buyers to see the goods and meet the exporters at one point?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Location-wise export figures are not centrally maintained. As per available Directorate General of Commerce Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S) data, the country's export of readymade garments, including knitwear, during the period April-January 2005 was US$ 4452.4 million.

(b) According to the Apparel Export Promotion Council, India's export of readymade garments, including knitwear, during the year 2005-06 may reach a level of US$6,450 million.

(c) The Apparel Export Promotion Council, in collaboration with certain major exporters Associations, is regularly holding bi-annual Fairs *i.e.* India International Garment Fair at New Delhi and India Knit Fair at Thirupur to facilitate Indian garmenters exports to display their products and negotiate business with visiting foreign buyers under one roof.